Several messages
Two sides with same image
Irregular edges
No fixed shape
All one color/ Pattern
Fractal Patterns
No edge References
No edge Pieces
Pattern just + a color gradient
"Extra" Pieces
Transparent Pieces
3D Pieces
Fake edge Pieces
Unifamily Cut Pieces
Missleading box art
2 Puzzles Mixed in one box
I love puzzles. There are lots of gimmicky "super hard" puzzles out there with unique challenges for the Mastochists out there.

More Music Stuck In My Head (a playlist)

"Oh, What a Beautiful Morning" / Gordon MacRae
"Shout at the Devil" / Motley Crue
"Angry Chair" / Alice in Chains
"Too Many Hands" / The Eagles
"Rush, Rush" / Paula Abdul
"The Method" / Berlin
"Time" / Pink Floyd
"We Are Young" / Fun
"Fancy" / Bobbi Gentry
"Fare Thee Well" / Oscar Isaac, Mavis Mumford
"Let's Go Burn Ole Nashville Down" / Jelly Roll, Big Kenny, Mojo Nixon
"Echoes / Rodrigo y Gabriela
"One Headlight" / The Wallflowers
"Pale Shelter" / Tears for Fears
"Soak Up the Sun" / Sheryl Crow

"I'm so glad I live
in a world
where there are
Octobers."

-L.M. Montgomery

Thomas Vose CC-BY-NC 9/2/23
tvose@hotmail.com

If you look at a nickel's edge, you notice that its metal is uniform, while the dime and quarter (and penny too) are not. Unlike "clad" coins - which are copper sandwiched in zinc, nickels are an alloy of nickel (25%) and copper, so it's the same metal throughout.

They also now cost considerably more than $.05 to make now - a bit over .10, actually - which seems like an issue.

AI can make very impressive, indeed bewildering things. Is it art?

The promise of labor saving devices, historically, was that it would free people up to pursue higher purposes, to self-actualize, to indulge their creativity.

If those higher purposes have themselves been outsourced, what then?

Further tweaking of algorithms to make our creativity even less relevant?

Mindless consumerism?

Falling under the sway of any grifter that promises meaning for your life?

Backlash against technology?

Neofeudalism under techbros?

If human creativity can be outsourced to automation, what value does it have?

You Should Read:

Should be required reading for anybody with so much as a vague interest in the birth of the Speedway and the 500." —Bob Kravitz, *The Indianapolis Star*
Blood and Smoke
A True Tale of Mystery, Mayhem, and the Birth of the Indy 500
CHARLES LEERHSEN
Author of CRAZY GOOD

It's amazing that anyone survived auto races back then.

The author really brings to life the challenges (to put it mildly) drivers faced back then, racing minimally tested new technologies with virtually zero safety precautions. Crashes frequently meant death.

I may not be a car guy, but I do love being immersed in a historical vibe - and this book delivers that.

"Baffle Ball," from 1931, is not the first pinball game. With no flippers and no automatic score tallying, it's more like its bagatelle predecessors, which have been around for centuries. But it was cheap to buy, earned back its purchase price quickly, and was popular enough that buyers wanted to know what else its creator (a Mr. David Gottlieb) could come up with.

And so, pinball as we know it was born, as a recreation available to all. You can still find copies here and there for sale.

(I really want one)

Pocketwatches are rad.

They haven't been relevant since WWI, when a wristwatch was found to be much more useful on the battlefield.

But they're a neat piece of engineering, and I carried one for a while - before smartphones made them completely superfluous.

What if you had a smartphone with that form factor, though?

hot take:

I don't like
Septum
Piercings.
They look
like
painful
metal
boogers.

This is the Republic of North Macedonia.

There is no South Macedonia.
Greece got pissy and made them add the "North", blocking their NATO membership until they did.
(This went on for decades, and was only resolved in 2019.)

"The Star-Spangled Banner"
(Original lyrics!)

To Anacreon, in Heav'n, where he sat
in full glee
A few sons of harmony sent a petition
That he their inspirer and patron would be
When this answer arrived from the
jolly old Grecian -
Voice, fiddle and flute, no longer be
mute
I'll lend ye my name, and inspire you
to boot,
And, besides, I'll instruct you, like
me, to entwine
The myrtle of Venus with Bacchus'
vine
The myrtle of Venus with Bacchus'
vine

(Verse 1, anyway. It goes on for a while, as good drinking songs do.)

Everywhere has a story

LAOS!

Let's Talk

(Sathalanalat Paxaxôn Lao)

Formerly a French colony, now heavily tied to China and communist since 1975, often dealing with its own civil war!

Landlocked, very rural, very low population density!

Looks kind of like a palm tree!

Impressive natural beauty!

Vientiane

Kaw poon - a spicy noodly soup made with coconut milk! (Dig on coconuts, fish & coffee)

Lots of huge sculptures of Buddha! (& Hindu)

Their money: the kip! (₭)

Founded as Lan Xang in the 1/1r century by a warrior king named Fa Ngum!

A truly frightening amount of shell fragments and unexploded ordinance left over from the Vietnam War!

Wall-designed flag

that's easy to draw!

(real) USEFUL TATS

- ☐ _____
- ☐ _____
- ☐ _____

A blank to-do list you can draw on with a pen

A ruler (Hope you don't get wrinkles!)

-Acetomenaphin
-Bee stings

> A list of your allergies

A blank Tic-Tac-Toe or Dot Game layout

A fun exercise:

Here is a simple empty floorplan for a tiny house, say 8' x 20' with a loft bed.

How would you fit your necessities into it? Draw them in!

- Sleeping
- Cooking
- Eating
- Workspace
- Bathroom

What else is necessary for your life, and will it fit?